Numb. 18.

THE REHEARSAL Of Obſervator, &c.

Of Prieſt-Craft. *Of* Strouling Preachers. *And* Tickets *for* Sermons. *With ſome of* Dan. Burgeſs's *STARS. The* Preſent State *of the* Church *of* England *Exemplify'd in a* Tryal *at the* Old-Baily. *Two* Books *Neceſſary to be* Anſwer'd.

From Saturday November the 25th, to Saturday December the 2d, 1704.

Country-m. WHat! Have I got a *NEW Maſter* every *Obſervator?* Is *LEGION* going his *Rounds*; And muſt I be *Poſſeſs'd* with a *Devil* of different *Shapes*, *Twice* every *Week?* In thine of laſt *Saturday*, N. 72. Thou mad'ſt me Rail, after a *Beaſtly* Rate, at *Church-men*, and their *Sermons*, and the *Offices* in the *Lyturgie*; and brought'ſt up again the Thread-bare *Topick* of *Prieſt-Craft* to give *Vent* to thy *Spleen*! With thy naſty *Bulls* and *Bares*! And thou own'ſt thy ſelf of *NO Church*, which thou Call'ſt *Party*. And Conſequently, as I Prov'd to thee, in my Laſt, thou can'ſt be of *NO Religion*.

But if thou had'ſt a Grain of Grace or Goodneſs left, thou would'ſt diſtinguiſh betwixt *Perſons* and *Things*. There was a *Defection* among the *Angels* of *Heaven*. And there was a *Judas* among the *Apoſtles*. And, as the old ſaying is, The *Corruption* of the *Beſt* things is the *Worſt*. A *Corrupt ANGEL*, is a *DEVIL*. And a *Corrupt PRIEST* is next to *Him* in *Wickedneſs*, becauſe next in *Dignity*. And thou Might'ſt, with as much *Senſe*, ſet up thy *Throat*, and *Bellow* againſt *Angels*, for *Angel-Craft*; as againſt *Prieſts* for *Prieſt-Craft*.

Obſ. Thou'rt a Pitifull *Prieſt-Ridden* fellow. Thou Worſhip'ſt the very *Shadow* of a Black *Gown*. Thou Can'ſt ſee no *Fault* in them.

Country-m. The *Reverence* I have for their *Character*, makes me more *Sharp-ſighted* than thou art, to ſpy out the *Faults* in the *Perſons*. But with this Difference; Thou *Rejoices* and *Inſults*, and Improves it to an Argument againſt the *Office*. Whereas it *Grieves* me to the Soul. And makes me think of the *Sins* of the *People*, which have Deſerv'd ſuch a *Judgment*, as to have ſuch *Prieſts* ſet over them. As the *Prophet* ſays, Like *People*, Like *Prieſts*. I pay *Reſpect* to the *CLERICAL Habit*. But if I ſee a *Wolf* under it, I am fill'd with *Fear* and *Indignation* too againſt the *Perſon*, tho' I Preſerve my *Reverence* to the *Function*. And the more *Sanctify'dly* and *Theatrically* he Carries on the *Deceit*, with *ANTICK Actions*, and *DISTORTED Countenance*, and *WONDERFUL Vehemency of Stile*! My *Horror* Encreaſes. And it ſets me more upon my *Guard*. Then I think, I am now Going to be *Cheated!* I muſt look well about me!

Eſpecially, when I ſee a Man Affect *Popularity*. And *Thruſting* himſelf into other Mens *Cures*, Fill all the *Pulpits* of the *Town*, and almoſt at one *Time*! And *Notice* Read *Publickly* by the *Clerk*, out of his *Deſk*, and the ſame given in Written *Tickets* to the *Auditors*, telling at what *Church* the ſame— is to *Preach* the *Sunday* following. Whether *Crowds* do *Buſtle*, as to a *Shew*, and *Seats* are *Beſpoke*, as at the *Bath*! Fill'd with *Cons*, *Non-cons*, and *Occaſionaliſts*, *HODGE-POTCH*!

Now as this is *Un-Canonical*, without the *Licence* of the *Biſhop* of the *Dioceſs*, and Introductive of all *Confuſion* into the *Church*, againſt which I am told the *Canons*, both *Ancient* and *Modern*, have Provided. So has it been the *Method* of *Sedition*, when *Popular Orators* run through the *People*, and *Allarm* the *Nation*. There is ſomething then a *Working*!

When, on the one ſide, ſome ſhall be Employ'd to go up and down every where, Crying *Peace, Peace*, there is no *Danger*! No. None at all! Therefore ſhew your *Moderation*, in your *Security*, leave off your *Watches*, let the Honeſt Men go to their *Beds*!

When, at the ſame time, the *Bell-Weathers* on the other ſide, are filling their *Peoples* Heads which *Jealouſies* and *Fears*, no leſs than downright *Perſecution* and utter *Deſtruction* coming upon them! To Prevent, which, as *Dan. Burgeſs* told them, laſt *Sunday* ſennight, at his *Meeting*, where I look'd in, and Heard him, Adviſing them to be *Stars*, and *MOVING Stars*, not only to *Shine*, but that they muſt *MOVE* too. And how *MOVE*? Not only with their *Hearts*, but with their *Hands*! Some, ſaid he, will open their *Purſe-ſtrings*, and have the *Heart* to Part with their *Money*. Which is a good thing. But it is not all. They muſt lend their *Hands* too to the *Work*, when there is need of them! *Money* is *Shining*; But it is *Hands* muſt *Move*. You muſt not only *Shine*, but *Move*. &c.

This is a good *Comment* upon the *Text* of *De-Foe*, which I Quoted to thee in *Rehearſal*, N. 16. That *when the TONGUE has done its Utmoſt*, we muſt *fall to work with the HAND*. We muſt *Shine* with the *Tongue*, in our *Learned Diſcourſes*: But we muſt *Move* with our *Hands*, to *DO Buſineſs*!

And when the *One Side* is *Moving*, to Perſuade the *Other* to *Lie Still*; is being certainly in *Fee* with the *MOVING Side*. And ſuch a *STROULING Preacher* of *Peace*, do's 'em more Ser-

Service than 20 of their own *Trumpeters* for *War*. For they are *Known* and *Suspected*. And *HE (Good Man!)* wou'd only *Diſ-Arm* thoſe whom they intend to *Devour*. And that only for *Peace* Sake, to Prevent a *Quarrel*!

This minds me of a Paſſage I heard once at a *Tryal* in the *Old-Baily*, where a *Houſe-Breaker* endeavouring to *Cut* the *Throat* of a *Servant-Maid*, who *Cry'd* out; And ſhe *Struggling* hard, and having her *Hands* Mangl'd in ſaving her *Wind-Pipe*, he ſaid to her, Why do you put your ſelf to all this *Pain* and *Trouble*? Do but let me Alone, and the *Work* will be over *Preſently*!

Thus it is now *Preach'd* to the *Church*! She will ſave her ſelf a great deal of *Trouble*, and *Die* in more *Peace* and *Quietneſs*!

But there is no word of *Exhortation* to the *Robbers*, to make *Peace* by Forbearing their Unjuſt *Aſſaults* upon the *Right* of others.

No *Advice* to the *Diſſenters*, to *Reſtrain* their *Virulent INVECTIVES* againſt the *Church*, which come out Thick and Threefold every Week. Beſides their *Printing*, *Re-Printing*, and *Recommending* the *Bittereſt* and moſt *Spiteful Books* have been Wrote againſt Her in Q. *Elizabeth*'s time, and all the way Downwards, as I have ſhew'd thee in my *Three* laſt. And likewiſe how the *Diſſenters* are the *Aggreſſors* in the Preſent *Paper-War*, and the *Church* upon the *Defenſive*; What is Wrote on her ſide being in *Anſwer* to their *Railing Accuſations*. And as Men who are upon the *Attack*, are Generally more *Fierce* than the *Defendants*; ſo is it in the Preſent *Caſe*. Let any one Read *Both* ſides, and he will find *Ten-fold* more of the *Spirit* of *Gall* and *Fury* in the *Pamphlets* and *Papers* of the *Diſſenters*, than of the *Church*. In thoſe Wrote for *Moderation*, than in thoſe who *Anſwer*, and wou'd Explain it to its True *Meaning*.

Yet *Moderation* is Preſs'd *only* upon the *Church*! As if *SHE only* Wanted it! The *Diſſenters* are not Perſwaded to Forbear their *Attacks*; but the *Church*, not to *Anſwer* for Her ſelf, till She ſhall be Render'd ſufficiently *Vile* and *Odious* to all the *Nation*! Notwithſtanding that *She* is *Inſulted* for not *Anſwering*; And her *Silence* made an *Argument* of her *Confeſſing* the *Charges* laid againſt her! As I have ſhew'd before, N. 15. from *De Foe*, &c.

Thus was *Moderation* Preach'd to the Poor *Maid* before mention'd, only to hinder her *Out-Cries*, and Diſturbing the *Neighbourhood*! What a *Noiſe* is here? *Stop* her *Breath*! And then it will be over *Preſently*!

Obſ. Do'ſt thou think that theſe Men, whoſe Sermons and Writings, ſerve our ends ſo *Effectually*, do ever Read the *Pamphlets*, that our *Friends* Write ſo *Smartly* againſt the *Church*? I am affraid, they wou'd alter their Note, if they did.

Country-m. I dare ſay, that many of them never give themſelves that trouble. Theſe *Pamphlets* of the *Diſſenters* are ſo very *Numerous*, and ſo full of *Rancour* and *Scurility*, that the Reading them wou'd be too great a Penance on ſuch as have any other Employment; And they are *Calculated* for *Mobb Underſtandings*. But I wou'd Recommend to the peruſal of that eminent *Preacher* of *Moderation*, only *Two* ſhort *Ones*, that would but take up little of his time, that is, *The New Teſt of the Church of* England's *Loyalty*. And, *The New Teſt of the Church of* England's *Honeſty*, by the ſame *Hand*. And then I am ſure he wou'd be of Opinion, that they are *Reſtleſs*, and very *Prov[illegible]* and *Spiteful Writers*! And let him Conſider, That theſe are not *Anſwers* to any *HIGH-CHURCH Pamphlet*, or *Defence* of the *Diſſenters* from their *Accuſations*, which might be ſome *Excuſe*; But they are *Originals* in their Kind, except ſome *Pamphlets* of the like kind, and with the ſame *Title*, which were put out by the *Papiſts* in the *Reign* of the late K. *James*, to *Blacken* the *Church* of *England*; And are now *Seaſonably* (as they think) *Reviv'd*! This is not the only *Artillery* they have Borrow'd from the *Papiſts*, againſt our *Church*!

And likewiſe he will Reflect, That for *Peace* ſake, and not to ſtir up *Heats* in this *Time* of *War*, no *Anſwer* has hitherto been Given by any of the *Church*, to *Either* of theſe *Invidious Pamphlets*; Tho' they have been *Trumpeted* up and down both *Town* and *Country*, more than any other ſince the *Revolution*; And are *Boaſted* of, as *Un-Anſwerable*, by all the *Diſſenters*, who *Triumph* in them! Can they ſhew ſuch an *Inſtance* of *Moderation* on their ſide? To be Content to Lie *Patiently* under ſuch a *Load* of *Infamy*, rather than Diſturb the *Calm* and *Quiet* of the *Nation* with their *Vindications*! And yet muſt they be Accounted the *Aggreſſors*, the Men of *Paſſion* and *Reſentment*, the *Furious* and the *Spiteful*, becauſe they will not be Totally *Silent*, but *Anſwer* in ſome other things!

Obſ. I am afraid, leſt ſuch Great *Provocations* ſhou'd, at laſt, Rouſe up the *Spirit* of ſome of the *High-Church* to *Anſwer* theſe *Two* Scandalous *Pamphlets*; Since they can hardly go into Company, where there is a *Whigg*, a *Diſſenter*, or even a *Low-Church-Man*, but ſuch an *Anſwer* is Call'd for, with no little *Inſulting*! And if they ſhou'd *Anſwer* with as much *Mettle* and *Concern*, as the *Cauſe* ſeems to Require, who knows what a *Flame*, what a *Change* it might Produce! Therefore, to Prevent all ſuch *Conſequences*, I do Join heartily with thee, *Country-man*, in an Humble *Petition* to the ſame —— to take this Task out of any other *Hot* Hand, and Himſelf to Give an *Anſwer* to theſe *Two* ſo much *Celebrated PAMPHLETS*; becauſe We are ſure he wou'd Do it with *MODERATION*! And tho' it is much *Beneath* him to enter the *Liſts* with *De Foe*, as of any Man of *Character* to Anſwer the *Obſervator*; yet where the *Miſchief* is *Great* and *Spreading*, the Putting a *Stop* to it, is not *Unworthy* the Greateſt Man, tho' he *Stoop* Below *Himſelf*, when that becomes *Neceſſary*. And he will Judge it fitting for him to *Condeſcend* to this the more Readily, in Conſideration that He himſelf is not Meanly *Concern'd* in the *BLACK Aſperſions* Caſt upon the *Church* in theſe *Books*!

Country-m. I hope he will do it. But if not, I have a Good mind to do it my ſelf. For I think I can. And if it be not well done, the more Blame will *Lie* upon him for not doing it Better. And *Truſting* it to a Poor *Country-man*. So good Night; *Maſter*, for I am ſleepy.

London, Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1704.